

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 SAM-01

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R 231508Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6090

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LISBON 1160

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: SOCIALISTS CAPITALIZE ON COMMUNIST PROVOCATIONS

SUMMARY: POLITICAL PARTIES ENGAGED IN ANOTHER ROUND OF WEEKEND RALLIES IN EMERGING PRE-ELECTION PATTERN. SOCIALISTS LEADER MARIO SOARES CONDEMNED COMMUNIST EFFORTS TO DISRUPT SOCIALIST RALLIES IN THE ALENTEJO. HOWEVER, COMMUNISTS HAVE NEITHER THE STRENGTH NOR THE OFFICIAL BACKING TO INTIMIDATE OTHER PARTIES, EVEN IN AREAS OF COMMUNIST STRENGTH. END SUMMARY.

1. SOCIALISTS CHALLENGE COMMUNIST STRONGHOLD: MARIO SOARES LED SOCIALIST PARTY CARAVAN THROUGH THE UPPER ALENTEGO FEB 21 AND 22. SOARES ENGAGED IN LIVELY REPARTEE WITH SOME 30 PCP DEMONSTRATORS AMONG 2,500 SOCIALIST SUPPORTERS IN CAMPO
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MAIOR FEB 21. HE TOLD HECKLERS THAT THEY OUGHT NOT DELUDE

THEMSELVES INTO BELIEVING THAT PCP OWNED THE ALENTEJO. ON FEB 22, FIVE INDIVIDUALS ATTENDING SOCIALIST RALLY IN BENAVIDA WERE INJURED BY ROCKS AND GUNSHOTS FROM COMMUNIST RURAL WORKERS SEEKING TO DISRUPT MEETING. SOARES LATER TOLD PRESS THAT COMMUNISTS WHO COMPLAIN ABOUT AGGRESSION IN THE NORTH BEHAVE IN THE SAME TOTALITARIAN AND INTOLERANT MANNER IN AREAS WHERE THEY HAVE STRENGTH.

2. CDS TO RUN ALONE: CDS LEADER FREITAS DO AMARAL TOLD SUPPORTERS AT VILA NOVA DE GAIA RALLY FEB 21 THAT CDS WOULD NOT ALLY WITH ANY OTHER PARTY FOR UPCOMING ELECTIONS. HE SAID THAT CDS WOULD COMPETE IN EVERY ELECTION DISTRICT.

3. CUNHAL IN MOSCOW: COMMUNIST LEADER ALVARO CUNHAL ARRIVED FEB 22 IN MOSCOW FOR COMMUNIST PARTY CONGRESS. HE REITERATED CALL FOR "UNITED FRONT FROM BELOW" WITH SOCIALISTS IN REMARKS REPORTED HERE. PCP CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER DIAS LOURENCO CHOSE SAME THEME AT EVORA MEETING FEB 21 WHERE HE CITED THE GREAT BENEFITS FOR THE COUNTRY TO BE GAINED FROM A UNION OF THE PS AND THE PCP.

4. PPD RALLY: SA CARNEIRO VIOLENTLY ATTACKED PORTUGAL'S DECISION TO RECOGNIZE THE MPLA AT FEB 22 RALLY IN AMADORA, OUTSIDE LISBON. (SEE SEPTTEL).

5. RETURNEES ORGANIZE: A GROUP OF RETURNEES FROM FORMER COLONIES FORMED NEW "POLITICAL PARTY" LAST WEEK -- THE SOCIAL INDEPENDENT CENTER -- "CENTRO SOCIAL INDEPENDIENTE" - (CSI). CSI ANNOUNCED THAT IT WOULD NEGOTIATE WITH EXISTING PARTIES TO INCLUDE INDEPENDENT RETURNEES ON THEIR SLATES FOR DEPUTY.

6. COMMENT: COMMUNIST AGITATION IN THE ALENTEJO PLAYED INTO SOARES'S HANDS SINCE IN THE POST-NOVE 25 CLIMATE, PCP HAS NEITHER THE STRENGTH NOR THE OFFICIAL BACKING TO INTIMIDATE OTHER PARTIES. THE STRENGTH AND CONFIDENCE OF NON-COMMUNIST PARTIES IN THE ALENTEJO HAS INCREASED MARKEDLY SINCE THE 1975 ELECTIONS. EVEN THE CDS HAS OPENED SEVERAL OFFICES IN THE ALENTEJO, AND IS RECRUITING SUPPORTERS WITH SOME SUCCESS.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
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04 MAY 2006

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